

February 28, 2007

Annual meeting of Anthony fire station board of directors

Board members Attendance:

Gary Cote

Edward Webster

Pat Lohrer Lefebvre

Domenic Terracciano

Shirley Matthews

Clerk:

Antonio Neves

Minutes of the meeting:

7:06pm Meeting started

Cote: Agenda item #1, Board member discussion.

Cote: Tax exempt status on elderly and disabled

Pat: I will have a proposal to be presented to the board members for the next meeting, please add to the next week agenda

Cote: hills dale property.

Matthews: by Friday we will have information on it

Cote: the hillside property was willed to the Anthony Fire station and we have no apparent use for it, we will get a property value for it and sell the property. The board went to court and evicted the first floor

tenant at the next door property and the second floor tenant was given notice to leave the apartment, both tenants will be out of the building by March 4th, 2007.

Board members discussion on the apartment building.

Cote: anything else from the board.

Terracciano: no

Webster: no

Cote: the board received a letter from the central fire station board of directors inviting the board to sit in on one of their meetings, informally, the board received the letter on January 30, 2007, we had made a mistake and apologize for not reading the letter in open meeting. They had offered their help and we will use it when we need to.

Cote: agenda item #2, public comment and discussion

Audience: Why does the fire engine go on all calls, whether there's a fire or not

Chief Beckman: man power, to assist in any event that requires more help on scene, and ready to be sent for next call.

Cote: is there not EMT supplies on the fire engine?

Chief Beckman: yes

Deputy Chief Warren: Sending the fire engine and ambulance on call has been standard practice, initiated a while back

Chief Beckman: All towns do it, standard procedure.

Board members: excellent question.

Audience: I have been reviewing the minutes on line and I was under the impression that the minutes would be transcribed.

Cote: No, we had established that the meetings would be taped and regular minutes would be taken.

Board members and audience discussion on transcribing the meeting minutes

Audience: Minutes need to be filed before each meeting.

Cote: we will look into it and revise and come into compliance.

Audience: what is going to happen to the building next door? What's the plan? Is it going to be raised?

Cote: the next door apartment will be used as a training facility and then demolished to make a parking lot for the fire station, which is what it was purchased for and to use it for anything else would be a misappropriation of funds.

Audience: You should let the newspapers know how it's going to happen.

Matthews: parking liability, we need the parking for tax payers and for the annual meetings at the fire station.

Audience: where are the tax collection reports and the budget reports?

Cote: tax collections as of now with interest equal \$637,707.11 as of first quarter payable \$496,437.56

Audience: is this related to the tax increase?

Board members and audience discussion on tax increase and collection

Audience: when are the tax sales?

Cote: tax assessor has a family issue and we will provide an answer as soon as possible.

Audience: is she alone in the office.

Cote: yes

Audience: treasury report?

Cote: we have not requested one

Audience: it would be nice to have at each meeting

Cote: We have money now but when a bill comes in it is used to pay it, we will have report later.

Audience: tax rates for residence verse commercial?

Cote: we have established a three tier tax rate, .21 cents residential, .27 cents commercial, .44 cents industrial. Currently the state treats 4 family homes as commercial we currently do not charge commercial tax rate on 4 family's, if we need to we will change that in order to keep taxes from raising.

Board members and audience discussion on tax rate system

Audience: why do we have to sell the property on hillside? We may need it in the future.

Cote: we need money, and the liability on the property is expensive.

Board discussion with audience about selling the hillside property

Board members: We will discuss what we will do with the property when we get the appraisal.

Audience: what will we sell next, the fire station?

Cote: No

Matthews: we need the money to fix the fire station.

Terracciano: Any stuff we sell we need to put into a fund

Cote: It's up to the tax payers whether we sell it or not

8:00pm Cote: chair will accept motion for executive session under RI Gen. Laws Chapter 134 Section 42-46-5 (a)- (1); collective bargaining/ litigation

Edward Webster: motion to move to executive session

Terracciano: second

Cote: all in favor?

Board members: aye, unanimous

8:05 pm Break

8:20pm -10:37pm executive session regarding personnel matters and collective bargaining/ litigation.

10:40pm Cote: return to public meeting

Cote: motion to seal minutes of executive meeting

Webster: motion to closes minutes of executive meeting

Terracciano: seconds

Cote: all in favor?

Cote: yes

Webster: yes

Matthews: yes

Terracciano: yes

Board members: unanimous vote yes

Cote: vote was taken in executive meeting to let Edward Webster represent the board instead of Gary Cote in the arbitration hearing

with Pat Lohrer Lefebvre, board voted unanimous, Edward Webster abstained

10:41pm Cote: motion to adjourn meeting

Webster: motion to adjourn meeting

Terracciano: second

Cote: all in favor?

Cote: yes

Webster: yes

Matthews: yes

Terracciano: yes

Lefebvre: yes

10:42pm meeting adjourned